

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### *Purpose of Checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### *Instructions for Applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

### **A. BACKGROUND**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Adoption of Cypress Island Comprehensive Management Plan and Designation of Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve
2. Name of applicant: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: WADNR, Aquatic Resources Division, P.O. Box 47027, Olympia, WA 98504-7027. Kyle Murphy, 360-902-1073
4. Date checklist prepared: November 7, 2006
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): NA

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? NO If yes, explain. Future creation of a Restoration and Development plan will be carried out to address any future additions, expansions or removal of existing structures. At this time such actions is purely speculative. Any future actions will be evaluated through SEPA and if required undergo SEPA review.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Final Draft Cypress Island Comprehensive Management Plan, Non-Project Final Environmental Impact Statement-Aquatic Reserve Program Guidance - September 6, 2002.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? NO. If yes, explain.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. None

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The Cypress Island Comprehensive Management Plan will be used as the primary guiding document in the management of the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) and the Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve. The Cypress Island NRCA encompasses approximately 4,028 upland acres. The Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve encompasses approximately 5,910 acres and includes all state-owned bedlands surrounding Cypress Island, including those adjacent to Strawberry Island and Cone Island, from the mean high tide line to a water depth of 70 feet below mean lower low water or one half mile from the extreme low tide, whichever is further seaward.

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist.

Cypress Island is a 5,500 acre island in the San Juan Archipelago. The Island is within Skagit County and is generally located due north of Anacortes, WA. Townships 35 and 36 North, Range 01 East. See Attached Map

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other The site is an island in the San Juan Archipelago, it contains a wide range of topography including slopes of varying degrees as well as

marine tidelands and bedlands.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? NA
- c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. Gravel, silt, sand, mud, loam
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? The loam soils found on Cypress Island do show a potential to slide when disturbed.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. NA
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. NA
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? NA
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: Continue to minimize new trail development in dry forest and avoid trail construction on steep slopes. Monitor areas for soil erosion and compaction.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. NA
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? NA
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: NA

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. Saltwater - The site is within Puget Sound. Rosario Strait is to the west, Bellingham Channel is south and east. The Island also contains numerous small lakes, the largest lake is Cypress Lake covering about 7 acres, ponds, wetlands, and streams.
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. NO
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material. NA
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and

approximate quantities if known. NO. Water withdrawals will remain the same in accordance with present use designated for the site.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? NA

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. NO

b. Ground:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? NO Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number such systems, the number of houses to be served ( if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. NA

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. NA

2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? NO If so, generally describe.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: NA

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

☐\_X\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

☐\_X\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

☐\_X\_ shrubs

☐\_X\_ grass

☐\_X\_ pasture

☐\_ crop or grain

☐\_X\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

☐\_X\_ water plants: water lily, **eelgrass primarily *Zostera marina*, kelp primarily *Nereocystis luetkeana* and *Sargassum*.** milfoil, other

☐\_X\_ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? Control and removal of non-native, invasive plants will be conducted.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. The following threatened and endangered plants are known to occur within Skagit County, and are found in the type of habitats that occur on Cypress Island; *Castilleja levisecta* (State Endangered, Federal Threatened), *Lobelia dortmanna* L. (State Threatened), *Ranunculus californicus* Benth. (State Threatened). However, these plants have not been found on Cypress Island.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: Re-establishment of native plants will be encouraged. Only local native plant stock will be used in site restoration projects.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Migratory waterfowl, peregrine falcon, woodpeckers**  
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: **Orca whales**  
fish: bass, **salmon**, trout, herring, **shellfish**, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. The island is currently home to a number of animal species that are of conservation concern, including: bald eagles (federal & state threatened), peregrine falcons (state sensitive), band-tailed pigeon (state priority species) pileated woodpecker (state candidate), osprey (state priority species), wood duck (state priority species), and western toad (state candidate). The waters surrounding Cypress Island are also an important feeding habitat for threatened and endangered seabirds, mammals and fish, such as salmon and Orca Whales and marbled murrelets.
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? YES If so, explain. Migratory route for salmon, waterfowl and Orca whales
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: These are pre-existing habitat preservation, enhancement and restoration areas. The site will continue to be managed in a manner that will ensure continued preservation, enhancement and restoration. Development of plan to encourage reintroduction and protection of identified Endangered, Threatened & Sensitive (ET&S) species, where appropriate.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. NA
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? NO If so, generally describe.
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: NA

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? YES If so, describe. A large portion of Cypress Island is forest and grass lands. These types of

environments do have the potential for wildfire.

1) Describe any emergency services that might be required. Fire suppression and prevention actions may need to be taken if life, property and resources are in danger in the event of a wildfire.

2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: The draft plan details several measures that should result in reduction of environmental hazards. Measures include but are not limited to, development of an emergency response and law enforcement plan, fire management and fuel modification, limitation on recreational group size and coordination with commercial outfitters to reduce impacts and conflicts from group use.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? NA

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? NONE Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: NA

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? A large majority of the island is designated as a Natural Resource Conservation Area, and a Natural Area Preserve. The state-owned tidelands and bedlands within the Natural Resource Conservation Area and Aquatic Reserve Boundary have been withdrawn from conflicting uses. There are currently 480 acres of uplands and tidelands held in private property, and 11,011 in DNR management, including the tidelands and bedlands.

Deleted: s

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? YES If so, describe. There were historically a few small farms on the island, but there is no longer any active agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site. Secret Harbor docks, one concrete pile structure, one creosote pile structure. Deepwater Bay Salmon Net Pens - There are currently three Atlantic salmon net pens within the Aquatic Reserve Boundaries. Seasonal caretaker quarters. Numerous structures around Secret Harbor, see attached map.

d. Will any structures be demolished? YES if so, what? Please refer to attached Secret Harbor map and legend, all structures excluding 3, 16, 17, 26 & 30-34 will be demolished through the NRCA program. Demolition of structures will not begin for at least 3 or 4 years. A more detailed approach to the demolition of these structures will be developed at a latter date, refer to section 5.9 of draft management plan. If additional SEPA environmental analysis is required for those activities, review will occur at that time.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? The shoreline of Cypress Island is zoned conservancy by Skagit County. Ninety percent of the uplands are zoned open space and the remaining 10 percent is zoned rural reserve with no more than one unit per ten acres.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? The shoreline of Cypress Island is zoned conservancy by Skagit County. Ninety percent of the uplands are zoned open space and the remaining 10 percent is zoned rural reserve.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? The shoreline is zoned conservancy in the Skagit County Shoreline Master Program.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? YES If so, specify. Several upland areas have been classified highly sensitive in the management plan. These areas contain highly sensitive resources, which require special management attention. Many of the habitats on the island also meet the definition of "Critical Areas" as defined in the Skagit County Critical Areas Ordinance.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? NA
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: NA
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: The plan seeks to provide protection for the fragile habitat of this area, and fits in with the shoreline designation of Skagit County. See 8 g. above.

#### 9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? NA Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? NA Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: NA

#### 10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? NA
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? NA Implementation of the plan may improve scenic views by managing sites to maintain or improve unique habitats.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: See Goal 2: Maintain Exceptional Scenic Landscapes, Chapter 4 of the Cyprus Island Comprehensive Plan.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? None What time of day would it mainly occur?
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? NA
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? NA
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: NA

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Public access, camping and wildlife and landscape viewing, environmental education opportunities, boat moorage.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? NO If so, describe.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: NA

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? The Cypress Island NRCA is known to contain seven prehistoric sites.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. Under Chapter 5: Management Actions, Cultural Resources, several sites have been identified including "seven prehistoric sites, several of which are being eroded by natural processes. The remaining sites are vulnerable to damage by public use. These sites are nonrenewable, non-restorable resources and are protected under RCW Title 27 as promulgated by Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation."
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: The management plan contains several management actions designed to preserve the existing cultural resources within the site. See Goal 6 and Chapter 5, Cultural Resources, Management Actions.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans if any. There are currently no public streets or highways serving the site.
- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? NO If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?  
NA



c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? None. NA How many would the project eliminate? None. NA

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? All remaining access routes on DNR managed lands that are unsuitable for public use or in conflict with management priorities will be closed. All remaining DNR roads on Cypress Island have been or will be abandoned or converted to trails, except those road segments that are the subject of legally recorded easements and those necessary for the operation of existing facilities, refer to chapter 5, section 5.3 of plan. These actions are not new actions to this plan, but are existing actions that have been evaluated through previous planning actions.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? NO

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. If the plan is adopted, trips should remain similar to what occurs presently.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: All remaining access routes on DNR managed lands that are unsuitable for public use or in conflict with management priorities will be closed. All remaining roads on Cypress Island have been or will be abandoned or converted to trails, except those road segments that are the subject of legally recorded easements and those necessary for the operation of existing facilities. These actions are not new actions to this plan, but are existing actions that have been evaluated through previous planning actions

#### 15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? NO

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. NA

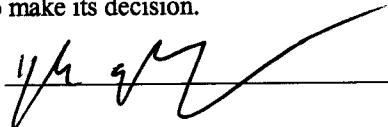
#### 16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. NA

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. NONE

#### C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Review by: Boenger  
Title: Division Manager, Aquatic Resources  
Date: Dec. 12, 2006

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**  
(Do not use this sheet for project action)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise? Because of limited road use and other management tools implemented on the NRCA now, discharges are kept to a minimum. With implementation of the plan, it is possible that discharges would decrease even more because some access points will be moved farther away from sensitive areas.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: See Chapter 5 of plan, Management Actions, specifically 5.5 public use

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life? The Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve will be established specifically to protect the existing ecosystem and conduct restoration where appropriate.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: DNR will limit new leases to only those activities that will not be in conflict with the purpose of the Aquatic Reserve. The plan includes several actions that will result in protection, restoration and enhancement of both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. See Chapter 5 of plan: Management Actions.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? It wouldn't; NA

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: NA

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designed (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection: such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands? This plan would protect the current high quality environment of Cypress Island as well as the plants and animals that utilize this habitat.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are: The plan includes appropriate measures to minimize impacts to sensitive areas.

This include, but are not limited to; limiting public use in most highly sensitive areas, re-vegetation of abandoned road corridors and un-natural clearings, encourage the reintroduction and protection of identified ET&S species, encourage re-establishment of native plants along trail corridors.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans? This plan would not allow for incompatible uses of the land or shoreline within the Aquatic Reserve or the NRCA. The plan would allow existing recreational uses, such as camping, hiking, wildlife and landscape viewing and educational opportunities that are not of conflicting use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are: The plan identifies appropriate measures to reduce shoreline impacts and land use impacts. See Chapter 5, Management Actions, specifically Aquatic Lands.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities? NA

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: NA

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. This plan would augment, rather than conflict with any existing local, state or federal environmental protection laws.